

# IN THE BEGINNING

*Compliments of*

**GEO. P. WASHBURN, ARCHITECT**  
OTTAWA, KANSAS



Lt. Geo. P. Washburn, Co. H, 21st Mo. Inf., severely wounded at battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862.



Geo. P. Washburn, Co. H, 21st Mo. Inf., at battle of Shiloh, killed with 3000 comrades by Guerrillas, May 24, 1862.



Private Geo. P. Washburn, Co. H, 21st Mo. Inf., just before the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, 18 years old.



Geo. P. Washburn, Co. H, 21st Mo. Inf., just after battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862.

Published Quarterly By  
**Woodson County Historical Society**  
**Yates Center, Kansas**  
**Vol. 21 - No. 83**

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 21-No. 83

August 1988

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### IN MEMORIAM

Chester Everett Rose 81 April 09, 1988  
He was a retired farmer and longtime member of the Woodson County Historical Society.

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#### Cover Story:

Souvenir fan of Reunion Survivor of the Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7th, 1916 was brought to Historical Society by the grand-daughter of George P. Washburn. The front side shows flags of Bunker Hill Flag 1775, Pine Tree Flag 1776, Rattle Snake Flag 1776, Cambridge Flag 1776, First Flag of the United States 1777, Second Flag of the United States 1795, Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, and where Betsy Ross made the first "Stars and Stripes."

The back side has four pictures of Washburn's. Under the top left: Lieut. P. S. Washburn, Co. H., 21st Mo. Inf. severely wounded at battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862.

top right: A.M. Washburn Co. H. 21st Mo., at battle of Shiloh -killed with 3 companions by Guerrillas, May 14, 1864.

bottom left: Private Geo. P. Washburn, Co. H., 21st Mo. Inf., just before the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, 15 years old.

bottom right: Geo. P. Washburn, Co. H, 21st Mo., just after Siege of Mobile, April, 1865.

George P. Washburn was the architect for the Woodson County Courthouse in 1899.

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## IN THE BEGINNING

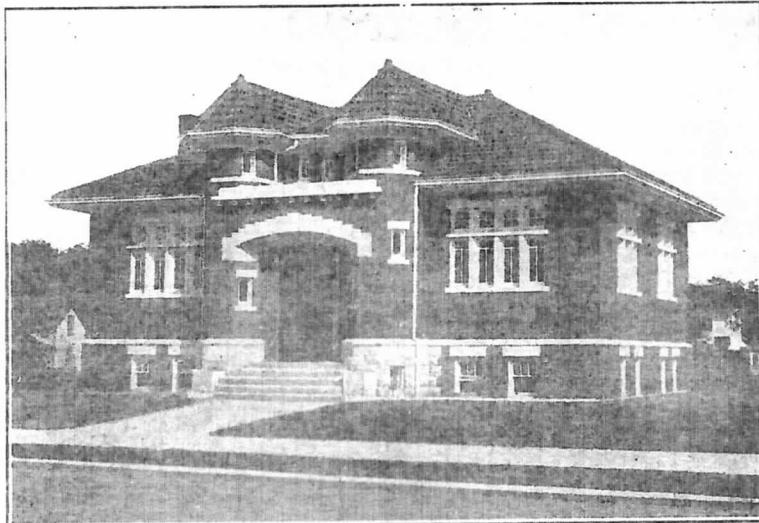
Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

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## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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**Carnegie Library, Yates Center, Kansas  
ORIGINAL**



**TODAY**

**LIBRARY BOARD**

President - Doris Horsch

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The Yates Center (Carnegie) Library is one of the buildings in town that is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was placed there on June 25, 1987.

The construction of the Yates Center Library was one of 58 library projects funded through grants by Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. In 1985, only 31 of the 63 Carnegie-funded structures were still being used.

According to a 1941 summary of his grant expenditures, the Scottish-born Carnegie gave a total of \$311,594,230 in public gifts and donated \$4,492,669 for free library buildings during the course of his life.

The Yates Center library began as an idea of the Jessie Cooper Reading Circle on January 8, 1907 and opened Jan. 29 of that year under the direction of a library board composed of a member of the reading circle and representatives from other civic organizations.

Originally located upstairs in the Apollo Opera House, the first library offered 120 books to loan and was open afternoons and evenings every Saturday and Sunday.

Less than two months later, the library moved to rented rooms north of the telephone building on State Street between Rutledge and Washington, and by January 1, 1908 had resorted to selling library cards at \$1 each to raise funds.

On January 10, 1910, the city applied for a \$7,500 Carnegie Library Building Grant, which was approved January 31, and after Missouri Pacific Railroad Company donated three lots for a construction site, work on the building began in May of 1911.

The new library opened its Carnegie Building on March 3, 1912. It lost its characteristic red tile roof in the mid-1930's when persistent water leakage prompted the city to cover the building's upper west windows, remove two gables on the west facade and install the existing flat roof.

The Yates Center library now houses approximately 10,000 books and is a member of the 14-county Southeast Kansas Library System, which provides a 250-book exchange program every five weeks.

A microfilm reader was donated in 1983 along with 102 years of **THE YATES CENTER NEWS**, as well as the Federal Census for Woodson County and back issues of newspapers from Toronto, Neosho Falls and Piqua.

A.T. Simmons of Bloomington, Ill., was the architect who designed the library. Simmons also designed Carnegie libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, and Hays.

# Kalida, Kansas.

This profile of Kalida, Kansas sounds familiar with the Industry Prospecting done today for Economic Development.

Kalida is situated on the proposed route of the Humboldt and Arkansas River Railroad, 15 miles west of Humboldt, in the geographical center of Woodson County, in the most beautiful and productive part of Southern Kansas.

A Railroad is contemplated from Topeka south through the center of this county and the Verdigris Valley to the south line of the State.

Our town is situated in the Owl Creek Valley. Between two of its principal branches, and is destined at an early day to become the County-seat. We are surrounded with as fine a farming country as there is in this or any other state, and for stock raising and fruit growing it is unsurpassed.

Our lands are as yet very cheap, and produce corn, small grain and vegetables in great abundance.

Building materials are convenient, cheap and plentiful. Coal has been discovered near by, and is believed to exist in great quantities.

Our Schools are as good as any in the State, in proportion to the age of the County.

We have two church organizations, the United Brethren and United Presbyterian. The Methodist and Christian denominations are represented, and will doubtless soon effect organizations.

Our town has but just started and the following are the business parties:

Merchants — Allenbaugh & Wertz, Dry Goods and Groceries; J. D. Lopp, Dry Goods and Groceries; Rhea & Gerdner, Druggist and General Merchants.

Hotels — John Graham, Kalida House; F.G. Langue, Iowa House.

Wm. Kay, Blacksmith and Plow maker; J.W. Allenbaugh, Physician; W. F. Gerdner, Physician and Dentist; Peter Bell, Attorney, Notary Public, Real Estate and Insurance Agents; Wm. M. Friedley, Notary Public; F. J. Epperson, Carpenter and Joiner; John Wertz, Carpenter and Joiner; J. J. Layton, Magistrate.

A good Flouring Mill and Printing Press are much needed and will pay.

Persons seeking locations for business are requested to visit us before investing elsewhere.

Address Thos. H. Davidson or any of the parties named above, for further information.

# *The Neosho Falls Chamber of Commerce*

## *=Neosho Falls, Kansas*

*"The Best and Biggest Little City on Earth"*

### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

#### **Neosho Falls, Kansas**

### **LOCATION**

"The Best and Biggest Little City on Earth," Neosho Falls, is located on the Neosho River in the Northeast corner of Woodson County. East of Wichita, "The Air Capitol of the World," on Highway 54, 120 miles, thence 6 miles north; or south of Topeka, our "State Capitol," on Highway 75, 72 miles south, thence 10 miles east.

### **PARKS**

Riverside Park, "The best in Kansas" only one-half mile from business district, just across the Neosho, has an abundance of good shade and good water, tables, benches, fireplaces, baseball diamond, race track, grandstand, and park buildings, and is an ideal spot for picnics, fishing and trailer camps.

The City Park, used for school events, has a tennis court and is just across the street from our high school.

### **PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**

Neosho Falls has the Methodist Church, Masonic, Eastern Star, and Rebekah Lodges, and many clubs, a fine accredited grade and high school with new auditorium and basketball court, which with some remodeling cost \$60,000.

The church, lodges, clubs, school, etc. are all active in civic affairs and hold regular meetings.

## INDUSTRIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Farming is the chief industry. Wheat, corn, oats, flax, soy beans, kafir crops and hay are in abundance. Fruits such as pears, peaches, apples, cherries, and grapes are plentiful. Tons of pecans, walnuts and hickory nuts grow here annually.

Cattle, hogs, sheep, dairying, poultry and their by-products are also very important and are produced on a large scale.

Oil, or "Liquid Gold," is also of major importance, many wells within our city and scores in rural area, development of additional wells is fairly regular. More natural gas is available within our city limits than is available within 5 mile radius of Iola, Kansas. "Harnessing" of our natural gas for consumption could be done cheaply.

The Kansas Utilities Co. has an Electric Power Plant here deriving power from the large dam across the Neosho River at the edge of town.

## CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

Our streets are well lighted, all streets and alleys are gravelled. Our city has a Township Memorial Hall and Auditorium, a City Hall, an able City Council, and ample police protection, and a motorized Volunteer Fire Department.

## BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Many good business enterprises thrive here and consist of 2 combination Grocery-Markets, 2 Cafes, 2 Grain Buyers, 2 Barber Shops, 3 Service Stations, 3 Bulk Plants, 2 Produce Firms, 3 Feed Stores, a Hotel, Combined Restaurant and Bowling Alley, "The Chicken Inn" for chicken dinners serving parties or families, 2 Carpenters, 2 Interior Decorators, a Furniture Repair and Wood Work Shop, 2 Coal Dealers, a Welding and Blacksmith Shop, and Allis-Chalmers Implement Firm, a

Hardware Store, Grocery and Dry Goods Store, Clothing and Shoe Store, an Auto Repair Shop, a Real Estate and Insurance Agency, a Funeral Home and Mortician, a Post Office and 2 Rural Mail Routes, a weekly Picture Show, a Dance Hall, a Telephone Exchange, a Salvage Plant, a Lumber Yard, a Licensed Graduate Veterinarian, and the M. K. & T. Railway operates 2 daily mail-passenger trains, rail and motor freight daily except Sunday.

#### **"THE SPORTSMAN'S HAVEN"**

The Neosho River, lakes, and ponds nearby provide a variety of fishing from large Catfish, Drum, Carp "That give you Thrills and Fight" to Bass, Crappie, Bullheads, Perch, etc.

For wild game such as Ducks, Quail, Rabbits, Prairie Chickens, Coyotes, etc. this is where you find them in abundance.

#### **THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Neosho Falls has a newly organized Chamber of Commerce composed of merchants, business men, farmers, cattle and dairy men, and other citizens. It is growing steadily and invites new members.

It is ready and willing to assist and inform any person, firm or organization desiring to come here or to learn more about splendid opportunities awaiting them in our city or trade area.

This is a good town with fine, friendly people in and around us. Ask about it, come here, get acquainted, tell others what we have told you. It will please everybody and make us both happy.



**Basketball games, plays and graduations all took place at the old Memorial Hall Building in Neosho Falls.**

## **Neosho Falls**

### **A town that refuses to die**

By Leland (Jr.) Cox Neosho Falls, Reprinted from THE LEROY TIMES

Recently a television news program featured Neosho Falls as a ghost town. For some this is true. As a result of the 1951 flood, this little town was destroyed, but the flood could not destroy the memories of the many people who grew up in this once thriving community. At one time, this little city had over 100 businesses and was the hub of activities for all the towns people and the farm community. No wonder it was called the "Biggest little city in the world."

As I watched the TV program, the memories of my childhood and my mind wandered to yesteryear.

Starting south on Main Street, I saw the Methodist Church, which is very much alive today. I remember the many church activities which were one of our main-stays in those days.

I look across the street, north, and see the school house, which is now a shell of its former self. I do not see ruins but see the old school house, a beautiful structure when I went to school there. For a moment I can hear the children laughing and yelling on the school playground. The classrooms in those days were filled with cheerful students from the first grade through high school. All were kept in line by Prof. Gordon (and that's another story).

My mind wanders north and past a vacant lot, once the old Neosho Falls Post, the town newspaper. As my mind travels down Main Street, I refuse to see the total destruction, choosing instead to see the many businesses that once made up this thriving community. I also see something else; I see the memories of long ago.

I see the Green Lantern dance hall as it once was; not just one wall standing, but a building filled with the sweet sound of the dance band on Saturday night and couples filling the dance floor. I can remember our talented Town Team playing basketball there; taking on all challengers and always winning.

I look across the street to a slab of concrete and smell the aroma of baking bread coming from the place where King's Bakery once stood. North of the bakery I see the people playing horseshoes, and I can hear the ringing of the horseshoes as they hit the pegs.

Further north, another vacant lot, I see our town's brand new city hall and jail. A pride to the town when I was just a boy. All gone now.

Next the Congregational Church, their activities only in my memory now.

Across the street stands Memorial Hall, now a shell covered with vines and the windows broken. But, I remember the movies and the basketball games and the school plays. This is where I saw the high school seniors graduate.

I travel north in my memory, and I see the Masonic Hall not as it is today, but as it was those many years ago. I remember as a child wondering what went on in that building. I would see the lovely ladies entering the hall in their long gowns and the men gathering on certain nights. For a young boy, this was a great mystery. It wasn't until much later when I joined the Masonic Order and the Eastern Star the mystery was solved.

I wander on north and cross the old river bridge, no longer there. I look down at the peaceful water below, I can't help but wonder how this tranquil body of water could cause so much destruction.

I cross the bridge to the Riverside Park. Fortunately, due to the efforts of the many dedicated volunteers, the park is not just a memory. It has been revived and is as beautiful as I remember it.

As I look around the park, where I had so many happy memories, I see the old grandstand, the baseball diamond, both gone now but still in my mind. The Floral Hall is gone too.

I remember the "Old Settlers' Reunion." It was held in the park many years ago. Evidently many others have memories of the "Old Settlers" also, because several years ago citizens of the area decided to revive "Old Settlers' Days" as it once was. Old Settlers is held on Labor Day weekend and is the major event of our little town.

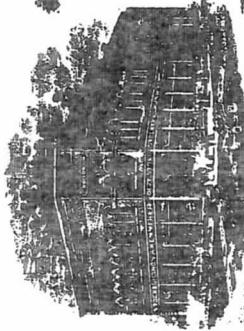
After the 1951 flood, many lost their homes and left, but their memories have brought them back again to refurbish, rebuild and to again live in the town of their childhood. They have come home.

Neosho Falls, the biggest little city in the world, is a town that refuses to die. Yes, we have many memories of the past, but we also look to the future.

**STOCKBRANDS & KERKVIMER,  
DEALERS IN  
GENERAL MERCHANDISE.  
DEPARTMENT STORE.**

DEALERS IN

COR. MAIN & RUTLEDGE STS.



AUDITORIUM SEATING CAPACITY 1,000.  
PARAPHRASED WITH THE OPERA CHAIN.  
STAGE 30x60 FEET  
BUILDING STEAM HEATED FIREPROOF.

*White Center, Wash. May 12, 1908*

Rev. Dr. Lowell Burke  
Rent due for Room or Room 3 x 4 from Aug 15-1907 to  
May 15-1908 - 9 mos. @ \$8.53 1/3 = \$73.00

Stockbrands & Kerkvimer.

by H. F. Stockbrand

Subscribed in my presence and known to be true and  
This the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 1908

W. H. Stockbrand

Notary Public

Frederick 12, 1911

Anyone know where the Self-Heating Gasoline Flat Iron Co. was located in Yates Center and who operated?

NEW LEADER  
SELF-HEATING  
GASOLINE  
FLAT IRON.

LATEST NOVELTY OUT!  
SELLS AT SIGHT  
Every Family  
Should Have One!  
No Home Complete Without It!

Pat. Aug 14, '94.

THE above cut illustrates a new era in household economy, and supplies a long felt necessity to all womankind.

*No Heating up the House on Ironing Day.*

*No Running Back and Forth to the Stove to Punch up the Fire and Change Irons.*

A lady can do double the work she can do with the ordinary old style of irons.

ADVERT.



New Leader Self-Heating Gasoline Flat Iron

Is perfectly clean, very neat and attractive, and absolutely safe to operate in every respect, being so constructed that accidents are impossible. It is beautifully finished, and will last a lifetime with proper care. It costs but one cent a day to run it, which will save the price of the Iron in fuel alone in a short time.

This Iron is certainly the fastest selling article ever placed before the public.

Good, Live, Responsible Agents Wanted in Every Locality. TERRITORY FOR 3.

Address all Communications to  
Self-Heating Gasoline Flat Iron Co.,  
YATES CENTER, KANSAS.

The New Leader, Yates Center.

GOVERN.



An interesting group of pictures taken from 1939 "The Arrow", the year book for Yates Center High School.

1. Senior Ethel Ingraham
2. Senior Donna Shaw
3. Teacher -Mathematics, Helen Ireland
4. Teacher - Speech, History, Latin, and English, Elwood Jones.
5. Teacher - Science and German, Stanley French
6. Senior - Vice-President Violet Withers
7. Senior Maxine Walters
8. Senior Bernice Sieker
9. Senior Kathryn Mulsow
10. Senior President Frances Briggs
- ???. Teacher - Social Science, Henry Horsch's cat, "The Goofer."

By early 1979, the affairs of the Senior Center were progressing smoothly and continued so until the early morning hours of Sunday, November 11, when fire broke out in an upstairs apartment of the Gamble Store building adjacent to the Center building. The fire burned with uncontrollable intensity and soon destroyed the entire structure. Dense smoke caused considerable damage to the interior of the Center and its contents necessitating an expensive program of cleaning deodorizing and removal of all craft items. The flurry of activity was completed in time for the Grand Re-opening turkey dinner celebration on the evening of December 31, 1979.

On July 26, 1982 the City of Yates Center turned over the title to the building to the Woodson County Commission.

At the end of ten years the following were the officers: President - Bill Lewis, Vice President - Harold Morris, Secretary - Velma West, and Treasurer - Marge Sorenson.

The Advisory Board was: Glyndora Washburn, Ted Roller, Nancy Hobbs, Albert Newman, Lucille Patterson, and Bill Herder.

The 1988 officers are: President - Ted Roller, Vice President - Lloyd Herder, Secretary - Eilene Adams, Treasurer - Margaret Wilson, Craft Treas. - Melva Coffield. The Executive Board is: Maxine Kilby, Velma West, Virginia Schornick, Roy Campbell, Martha Laidlaw, Jenny Marker, Carolyn Whitney, and Norma Thompson. Memorial Chairperson Dylete Sowers. Present Director - Marilyn Zimmerman. Norma Thompson was Director from October 1, 1986 to May 1988.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Warren R. Jones sent some pictures of when he was coaching in Yates Center. The following are pictures of some of the boys on the team.



BEN POWELL



PETE HERROD



TOM BING DALY



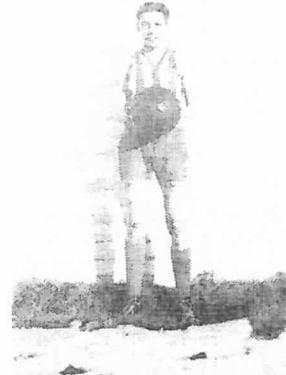
CARL SWINNEY



OPPERMAN



KEITH PETERSON



CECIL DAWSON

With the recent changes at the Senior Center, we would like to discuss some of the happenings at the Center.

In April of 1973, two members of the Yates Center Recreation Commission, Dr. E. J. Kluender and Jack V. Gibbs, concerned about the lack of social and recreational facilities for the older citizens of the city, communicated this concern to the full body of the Commission. These gentlemen then headed a drive which presented a means of hope and anticipation for a program designed to enhance the role of the older citizens in the main stream of community life.

At a meeting of a group of interested persons, a representative committee of six was chosen: Georgia McConnell, Opal Reno, Roy Shriver, Arthur (Bud) Herder, Cal Patterson and Opha Mische. This group met with the City Recreation Commission in May of 1973 to discuss the possibility of providing building space for a senior activity center. The lower half of the building at 115 West Butler, owned by Ms. Cecile Davis, was rented for this purpose and seed money provided by the Recreation Commission and the Lions Club of Yates Center was used to help pay for painting, cleaning, and the purchase of a minimal amount of equipment.

Two important events occurred on July 1, 1973 — Norma Kress was appointed Director of the Senior Center by the Recreation Commission and a notice of approval of the request for Government funds was received from the SEK Area Agency on Aging. The amount awarded was \$7,379.95 for the first year with the assurance of some funding for two additional years. With this welcome information the Commission initiated proceedings to purchase the site occupied by the Senior Center.

The first and possibly the most important election in Center history took place at the Center on September 29, at 7:00 p.m. with 37 members voting into office the following persons: Bud Herder-President, Gordon Cooper-Vice President, Hazel Hoggatt-Secretary. These officers and the newly formed Advisory Committee met in joint session on November 12, 1973 to discuss the possibility of providing transportation for the elderly of the area. Norma Kress and Ed Mische were selected to explore the availability of Federal assistance for this service with the aid of Mark M. Minton, Executive Director of the SEK-AAA. The effort proved fruitful and an application for funding was forwarded to the SEK-AAA on March 5, 1974 and approved on October 4, 1974.

Ginger Rodgers, who is 77 years old, performed at the Temple Theatre in November, 1926 when she was just 15 years old.

# Temple Theatre



ROD  
LA ROCQUE  
"Gigolo"

Monday  
and  
Tuesday

ROD  
LA ROCQUE  
in  
"Gigolo"  
and

GINGER RODGERS and Her Red Heads

Ginger is bringing her Charelston Champions here in a three act musical revue in rare bits of song, dance, mirth, laughter and melody. Introducing six new versions of the Charleston and the new dance craze — the "Blackbottom".

#### ADMISSION

Children 15c

Adults .50c

**Nine people      Nine people**

## PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

The names of the patrons found on this backfly leaf are names of different business people and firms and individuals who contribute an extra \$5.00 to the financing of this historical publication. Their support is certainly appreciated.

Lester & Edith Harding	Yates Center Elevator
Ron & Linda Call	Deed & Betty Stockebrand
W. Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand	William Lacy, Chtd.
Milton & Virginia Schornick	Wagner Ready Mix
John V. Glades Agency	Yates Center Branch Bank
Street Abstract Co., Inc.	Wilson & Guensweider, Chtd.
Self Service Grocery	V & S Variety Plus —
Steiner's Sundries	Gary Culbertson
Morton Equipment Co.	Sievers GreenLight
Swope & Son Implement Co.	Auto Parts
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.	Woodson County Co-Op
Wilma Mark	Jackson OK Tire Store
Yates Center News	Towne Square Flowers
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy	Bell Auto Supply
Gaulding Oil Co.	Clyde Hill
Hi-Way Food Basket	Cantrell Hay Company —
Jaspers Shopping Spot	Craig Cantrell
Campbell Plg. & Electric	Bill Herman
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau	Marcella & Milton Wrampe
Ted Spencer — Gen. Agent	Lynn & Gail Cantrell
Jaynes Insurance Agency	Daly Western Supply
Al's Jewelry	Piqua State Bank
Lawrence M. &	Piqua Co-Op
Alice Catherine Smith	Linde Barber Shop
Glen & Wanda Shaw	Kimbell Ranch — Ed Kimbell
	Loren & Rita Cantrell

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Membership dues to Woodson County Historical Society  
\$2 per calender year — Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

\$25 Life Membership

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\$5 per year